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— chang an fantastic night —

玉龍

Jade Dragon

Black oxen and white horses, coaches
of seven fragrant woods,
Move down the webs of narrow lanes
branching out from Chang An's broad
avenues.

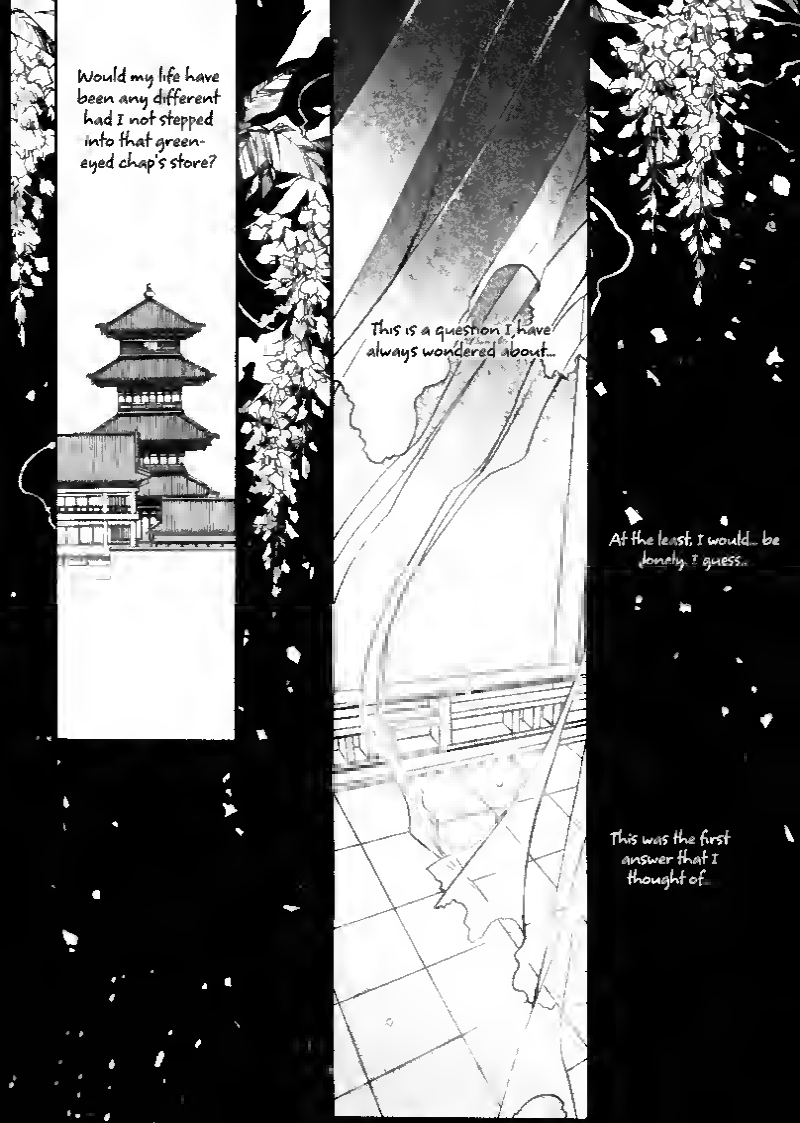
The emperor's jade-fit palanquin sweeps
past the mansions of the nobles,
Gold riding whips in a never-ending train
point toward barons' homes

The dragon clamps on the jeweled
canopy, catching the morning sun,
The phoenix disgorges dangling fringes,
draping the evening's red clouds

A hundred yards of gossamer strands
surround the trees,
While a graceful flock of birds coo in
unison among flowers

—Ancient Chang An— *Lu Zhaolin

*T/N Translation by Phearsa http://history.cultural-china.com/en/53History3454.html


Would my life have been any different had I not stepped into that green-eyed chap's store?
This is a question I have always wondered about...
At the least, I would... be lonely, I guess...
This was the first answer that I thought of...

Lonely...
CHIRP
CHIRP

DID YOU...
HEAR ANYTHING I SAID?!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED, CAN YOU?
ABANDONING A FRIEND WHO'S FALLEN INTO ABJECT POVERTY
WILL BRING HEAVEN'S WRATH UPON YOU!
WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?
MMM... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
THAT WHAT "SPRING" OF THE WEST CITY IS COMING?

*T/N: Name of a building/store where wine is often served to customers
IT'S OBVIOUSLY **JADE CAPITAL SPRING*!
THAT ORCHID WHO SELLS ALCOHOL!
HER NAME'S YANYAN... WHAT A NICE-SOUNDING NAME...
I'D THOUGHT THAT SHE'D FELT SOMETHING FOR ME.
WHEN SHE SMILED AT ME LIKE THAT...
IT WAS ONLY AFTER THAT THAT I FOUND OUT THAT SHE WOULD SMILE AT EVERYONE WHO DRANK WINE IF YOU DIDN'T PAY HER TO SMILE FOR YOU!
YOU GIVE HER YOUR HEART AND YOUR ALL BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IF SHE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ALL SHE DOES IS FLASH HER SMILE BEHIND THOSE BEAUTIFUL BLUE EYES...
LANGYA, I DID TELL YOU
DRINK
NOT TO TEASE THOSE PERSIAN MAIDENS?!
Ah! I finally remembered
This guy has been lamenting ever since he woke me up from my afternoon nap...
Gulp! Sour plum soup is really nice.

PAT
DUAN-HUA, I SAY.
BE IT GOOD OR BAD, YOU BECAME AN IMPERIAL COURT GENERAL LAST MONTH...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I GET A LITTLE WORRIED WHEN I LOOK AT YOU.
IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE THAT YOU'RE EXPLOITING YOUR SOCIAL CLASS TO COMMIT SHAMELESS ACTIVITIES. ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO WEAR SUCH A FACE TO GUARD THE IMPERIAL PALACE?
ACTUALLY, I'VE WANTED TO SEEK AN ATTENDANCE WITH KING XUE MORE THAN ONCE TO EXPOSE YOUR WRONGDOINGS.
DOES HE KNOW THAT THE NINTH PRINCE WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY SO PURE AND MORAL, IS ACTUALLY A GLOOMY LAD WITH A BAD MOUTH?

FINE, FINE.
YOU'RE WELCOME
THE TANG DYNASTY'S FUTURE WILL BE GONE IF IT RESTS WITH A PERSON LIKE YOU!

Nineteenth year of *Kaiyuan — Summer
In many legends told by later generations **Chang'An was a rising cloud, a city that shone.
It was vast and magnificent; it had a brilliant midday and a dark but splendid midnight. The nobility who resided in it, the knights and the painters all became part of a legend as history was narrated through time.
Every street, every house, every hidden alley, will all be part of the explanation of this legend. Together, they weave a dream-like era in time.
Just like gorgeous silk, every part of the story brings with it a magical quality that cannot be told.

*T/N: Reign name, 713-741 of Tang emperor, Xuanzong, and was a period when Tang prosperity peaked
**T/N: capital of Tang Period China (618 - 907 CE)

Walking out of the business district where the nobility gather, they move westward through the south road encircling the city. Passing *Pingkangfang, they travel around the gates of the imperial city. Slowing down their horses to a slow trot, they move across the **Vermilion Bird street.
As they move further west, the smell of spices in the air gets thicker. This smell originates from the well-known "West Market".
*T/N:A district in Ancient Chang An
**T/N: A street in the capital of Chang An
Other than the precious jewels and strange beasts, the merrymaking and spices, they also have skilled and passionate adventurers.
All these customers and businessmen with different eye colors travel for miles, gathering in the city of Chang An once again.
Using bizarre goods and thick golden silk,
coupled with their sly business skills,
*T/N: referring to Yanyan
and not forgetting, that beautiful *orchid who serves wine,
they've opened a magical land in a foreign city.

Welcoming the imagination the black-eyed Easterners have of the distant places in the West...
JADE CAPITAL SPRING
LANGYA, IT'S OVER HERE!

OWNER, TETHER THE HORSES!
YES
YES
BOTH OF YOU, THIS WAY PLEASE...
Where on earth did you get that master-like confidence...?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY USELESS
AT LEAST YOU STILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO PICK OUT PRETTY GIRLS
HOW IS IT?
What a beautiful maiden
HOW GOR GEOUS

LET GO OF HER!!

BASH!
PUNCH

EH?
ALTHOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING
BUT HER EXPRESSION.
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE SHE'S THANKING ME.
EH?!
SPIT

HIT THESE TWO PALE-FACED LIBERTINES!
The only sentence he understands
STEAMED DUMPLINGS
STEAMED DUMPLINGS
STEAMED DUMPLINGS FRESH OUT OF THE OVEN...

TAP
TAP
TAP
MOON CAKES
HOT BUNS
SPRING ROLLS
WAHH!
WAH HHH HH!
AHH HHH HH!

AH AH AH!
WAH
WHAT ON EARTH DID WE DO THAT MADE THEM SO ANGRY?!
CLATTER CLATTER
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL
BUT WHY AM I BEING PURSUED AS WELL?
CALLS OUT
AH! HOW DESU! CABLE!

When I tripped snow-like dust floated in the air.
bringing with it the smell of wheat..

As the sun set in west. I could see the tip of the Persian temple in front of it.

The color of dusk was lazy but beautiful.

The floating specks of dust were also tinted orange.

Time is moving so slowly right now that it doesn't seem real...

Everything's been enveloped by the silkiness of the setting sun...

It's inconceivable...

Green eyes?

It's almost like...

Jadeite that reflects the denseness of the night

I WAS JUST HERE TO GET THE FIRST BATCH OF PASTRIES FOR THIS EVENING

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ..

SOMEONE MORE DESPERATE THAN MYSELF

I'M NOT HERE TO EAT PASTRIES
I'M SORRY
I'LL PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGED GOODS
Those specks of dust that smelt like wheat... Don't tell me I just overturned a whole basket of it?
FIRST
FIRST BATCH OF PASTRIES?
OH REALLY?
THEN THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE
THE CAO FAMILY FROM *YANSHOU HAS OWNED THIS SHOP FOR TENS OF YEARS
IF THE OWNER WERE TO COME BACK AND SEE HIS **HOME WRECKED,
HE MIGHT FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST AN ASSAILANT LIKE YOU

*T/N: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yanshou,_County

**T/N: People who owned shop's generally lived in them just on the upper floors.

THAT'S RIGHT.
TALKING ABOUT THIS WHERE HAS DUANHUA RUN OFF TO?
WHY DO THE SHOUTS SEEM TO BE COMING FROM TWO STREETS AWAY NOW?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YOUR FRIEND COULD HAVE REACHED LIQUAN LANE. LOOKS LIKE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH HIM NOW
DO YOU INTEND TO STAND HERE
AND WAIT FOR THEM TO RETURN AND REASON IT OUT WITH YOU?
YOU'VE GOT A BETTER SUGGESTION HAVE YOU?
YOU CAN HIDE IN MY SHOP FOR AWHILE
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE

Actually, when I thought about it a long time after it'd happened, even if I'd not waited there foolishly or gone to any shop, I could have avoided the problem by walking away from it.
It could have been because it was the time when sunset was entering night... The more beautiful a thing is,
That's why... It made me more curious...
The less real it seems, under an unclear light.
But, why didn't I think twice before following that green-eyed person obediently?

PEOPLE LIVING IN SMALLER AREAS
NO.
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL HERE.
CANNOT BEAT THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE CENTRAL AREA WHEN IT COMES TO LANDSCAPING GARDENS...
EVEN THOUGH THE COURTYARD MY FAMILY HAS IS MUCH BIGGER,
THERE'S NO SPECK OF DUST PRESENT, AND IT'S EXTREMELY UNIFORM.
THIS PLACE... IS MORE ELEGANT

Deep-set green eyes golden long hair.. He must be from the West a Persian

But he gives off a gentle and graceful feeling, and no matter how I look at him he seems to be a person from the central area.

*TN: kan zhi cheng bi: Meaning to see things not as they are. Fuzzy vision.
I HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU YET.
MAY I KNOW WHO YOU ARE?
AN BICHENG.
IS BICHENG FROM THE IDIOM "TO SEE VERMILION AS JADE"?
IS A CITY THAT'S ABUNDANT WITH JADE.
HAHA....
IT DOESN'T HAVE SUCH A DEEP MEANING TO IT.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE MY HOMETOWN.
THIS IS MY SHOP.
THE "CRYSTAL PAVILION"

It probably was because it was already dusk, that soft rays of orange light reflected the brilliance of the beautiful and intricate architecture.
I was held in a trance for a moment.
SIR LI,
THIS IS MY ANTIQUE SHOP.
AND THERE'S NOTHING TOO PRECIOUS HERE.
TO THINK THAT THERE RE STILL ROOMS FACING THE STREETS EVEN AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE COURTYARD...
HOW MAY I ADDRESS YOU,
CUS-TOMER?
...LI LANGYA.

BUT...
COINCIDENTALLY, THERE MAY BE SOMETHING HERE THAT A CUSTOMER EXTREMELY DESIRES.
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK?

Antiques which were strewn all over the place together with the owner's timely explanation gave this shop an elegant feeling.
THESE ARE THE SILVERWARE BROUGHT FROM THE *SASSANID PERSIAN EMPIRE
LOOK AT ITS SURFACE IT WAS DIVIDED INTO NINE LOTUS PETALS
YOU RARELY SEE THIS PATTERN IN THE CENTRAL AREA
ALL RIGHT I'LL TAKE THIS TOO
I'LL GET SOMEONE TO BRING THE MONEY OVER TOMORROW IS THAT FINE WITH YOU?
I'm sorry but I didn't bring so much money
Actually Persian merchants aren't as skilled or as stingy as people make them out to be...!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BOUGHT SO MANY THINGS I GUESS I SHOULD BE GETTING HOME SOON
SURE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE

That's
A projection of water waves seemed to flit across the surface when I held it under the light
IT'S A JADE PENDANT.
IT IS A JADE PENDANT.
BUT THIS DESIGN.
What a weird dark green this is.
IS THIS
A DRAGON?
Creating an illusion which lasted for a split second...
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS MADE BY THE NOBILITY DURING THE *SHANG DYNASTY AS A TOOL USED TO PRAY TO THE GODS FOR RAIN
BUT, THE SIZE IS OFF.
AND,
THE WORKMANSHIP IS REALLY POOR,
IS IT NOT?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE THINGS IN YOUR SHOP RIGHT NOW
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO SPEAK SO HONESTLY ABOUT THEM?
I'm sorry.

Chang An Fantastic Night

Story by
Mian
Tang
Xiong

Art by
Han
Lu

Please visit www.comicfans.net For more information regarding this work, Or the Chang An Fantastic Night website at www.chang-an-kuan-ye.com

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY

During the period when the Tang Dynasty was at its peak of success, imperial court assistant, Huangfu Dunwuke, was whisked away into a series of bizarre and supernatural events after his friend accidentally stepped into a store owned by a Persian merchant. This then led to many worldsoul shift were kept sealed by the empire for a thousand years.

disputes, strife in the royal family. As the wheels of the perilous history are set in motion, where will they

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